

Amendments to the Drawings

The drawings originally filed with this application on 1 December 2003 were informal. Accordingly, replacement sheets 1-19 are provided in an Appendix to this Amendment. One replacement sheet is provided for each sheet of originally-filed drawings. No substantive amendments have been made to the drawings. All changes are directed to improving character, line quality, and consistency.

Remarks

For the Drawings:

This Office Action objects to Figures 1-27, alleging that they are handwritten and unclear. This Office Action requires new corrected drawings. A clean copy of each drawing page for Figures 1-27 is appended hereto. No new matter is being added.

For the Claims:

Applicants submitted claims 1-31. This Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 7-10, 14-23, and 27-29, and objects to claims 2, 5, 6, 11-13, 24-26, 30, and 31 as being dependent upon rejected base claims. Applicants cancel claims 2, 16-23, and 27-31, amend claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 12, 24, 25, and 26, and retain claims 3, 4, 7-10, and 13-15 as originally submitted. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Additional fees are necessitated by the claim amendments made herein. These additional fees are enclosed herewith by way of a credit-card authorization form.

This Office Action objects to claims 16-26 because of informalities. In particular, the Office Action alleges that the terms "coder/decoder" and "compensation/estimation" are unclear, and requests that the terms be changed to a specific limitation. Claims 16-23 have been canceled. Therefore, this claim objection is no longer relevant. Claims 24-26 have been amended to remove the term "coder/decoder" since the term is not essential to the understanding of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claims 16-26.

This Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14-19, 21-23, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irvine et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0191695, in view of Wu et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,016,337. In addition, this Office Action rejects claims 8 and 20 as being unpatentable over Irvine et al., in view of Wu et al., and further in view of Jacquin et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,625,217.

Applicants amend independent claim 1 to include the limitations of objected to claim 2. As such, claim 2 is being canceled. Accordingly, independent claim 1 should now be allowable. Originally filed claims 3, 4, 7-10, 14, and 15 depend directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 1. As such, Applicants believe claims 3, 4, 7-10, 14, and 15 should now be allowable.

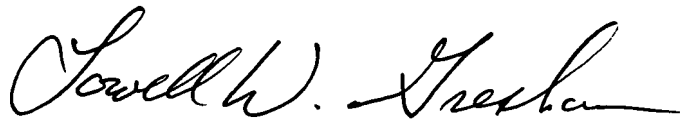
Each of objected to claims 5, 6, 11, and 12 were amended to independent form and now include the limitations of independent claim 1, as originally filed, and any intervening claims. Accordingly, amended independent claims 5, 6, 11, and 12 are believed to be allowable.

Each of objected to claims 24 and 25 were amended to independent form and now include the limitations of independent claim 16 and the intervening dependent claim 22. Accordingly, claims 16-23 were canceled. As such, amended independent claims 24 and 25 are believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, this Amendment cancels claims 2, 16-23, and 27-31 and amends claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 12, 24, 25, and 26. Currently amended claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 12, 24, 25, and 26 remain in the application and are believed to be allowable. In addition, claims 3, 4, 7-10, and 13-15 remain in the application as originally submitted and are believed to be allowable.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the rejections and/or objections recited in the 3 May 2007 Office Action and that the present application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lowell W. Gresham", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent.

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